

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:WEAGLETON:SK

APPROVED BY S - SECRETARY

EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

DOD/ISA - COL. MAJORS

OJCS - BRIG. GEN. YOUREE

S/S-0 - JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USCINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 195262

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, IS

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO BITSIOS RE AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY

1. PLEASE SEE BITSIOS AND DELIVER TEXT OF LETTER (BELOW) FROM THE SECRETARY RE AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY. YOU SHOULD TELL BITSIOS THAT SHORTAGES CREATED VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR US. AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED RESTITUTION OF ALL MISSING AMMUNITION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF BITSIOS' PERSONAL REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY IN HELSINKI, THE SECRETARY HAS ARRANGED THAT AN EXCEPTION SHOULD BE MADE IN THIS CASE. BITSIOS SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD THAT USG IS KEEPING MATTER CONFIDENTIAL. HOWEVER, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (ASPIN), THROUGH HIS OWN SOURCES, BECAME AWARE OF SHORTAGES AND IS PRESSING FOR SECRET

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DECLASSIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION. HE AND CHAIRMEN OF ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFINGS, BUT USG IS NOT AUTHORIZING THEM OR ANYONE ELSE TO RELEASE INFO TO PUBLIC. IF A LEAK SHOULD OCCUR, WE WILL

LIMIT RESPONSE TO MINIMUM (AS AGREED IN PRESS GUIDANCE
STATE 187196 AND ATHENS 5984).

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. MINISTER: AS I PROMISED YOU
IN HELSINKI, ON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON I REVIEWED THE
QUESTION OF THE AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT THE SOUDA BAY
STORAGE SITE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. AS YOU KNOW, A DECISION HAD
BEEN MADE THAT ALL MISSING AMMUNITION SHOULD BE RESTORED.
WE WOULD STILL PREFER SUCH A PROCEDURE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW
OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT YOU RAISED WITH ME, AND TO EASE
YOUR PROBLEM, WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT REPLACEMENT OF ALL
MISSING ITEMS THAT CAN BE RETURNED AND PAYMENT ON A CASH
BASIS FOR THE REMAINDER. I SUGGEST THAT DISCUSSIONS BE
HELD AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNTS AND
TYPES OF AMMUNITION THAT WILL BE RETURNED AND THOSE THAT
WILL BE PURCHASED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

SINCE OUR DISCUSSION IN HELSINKI THERE HAVE BEEN EN-
COURAGING REPORTS FROM THE MEETINGS BETWEEN MESSRS.
CLERIDES AND DENKTASH IN VIENNA. WE HOPE THAT THE
MOMENTUM AND POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE DEVELOPED BY THEM WILL
BE MAINTAINED IN THEIR MEETING IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 8-9.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, AS WELL
AS OTHER PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE, TO DISPLAY THE GREATEST
POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY UNTIL A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF
THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAS BEEN REACHED.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT MONTH IN NEW YORK DURING THE
MEETING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO HAVE THE OPPOR-
TUNITY THERE TO REVIEW WITH YOU CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS AND
OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WARM REGARDS. HENRY A.
KISSINGER. END TEXT. SISCO

SECRET

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